

Adult male. Beak greenish yellow for over $\frac{2}{3}$ of basal portion, apical portion black with vermilion tinge, bright on the culmen, near the tip, and on the lower mandible. Inside of mouth orange-red. Iris pale straw-yellow. Eye-rim vermilion. Legs bright yellow with a greenish tinge; claws black.

XXV.—*Letter from Mr. SWINHOE on the Ornithology of Amoy and Foochow.*

See 440 + 442 To the Editor of 'The Ibis.'

SIR,—A few more words on the birds of this province (Fuh-keen) before I take my departure to the comparatively new field at Formosa. I have submitted a specimen of the *Larvivora cyanea*? (marked "7" in 'Ibis,' 1860, p. 359) to Mr. Blyth, and that gentleman pronounces it perfectly distinct from Hodgson's species. I have therefore named it *L. gracilis*, and beg to offer a diagnosis of its characters.

See p 409 + 1863 p 92
1866 — *LARVIVORA GRACILIS*, n. sp. = *Lusciola cyanea* Pall

315 Bill, upper mandible brown, lower ochreous, with yellow rictus. Legs and claws yellowish flesh-colour. Iris hazel. Top of the head dark olive-green, quickly blending into the cyanean blue of the upper parts. Wings and tail dark brown, tinged with bluish grey, and indistinctly edged with yellowish brown. Throat, breast, cheek, and region of the eye yellow ochre, the feathers being palely edged with olive brown. Belly and vent white. Axillæ and flanks dark bluish-grey.

Length $4\frac{6}{10}$ in., wing 3, tail $1\frac{8}{10}$. Bill $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Tarse 1 in.; hind-toe $\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{10}$, its claw $\frac{2}{10}$.

I twice procured this species in the autumn of 1859. It was perhaps a passing migrant, accidentally blown on the island. It is very elegant in its contour, and appeared very tame, allowing me to approach within a few yards of it. It kept a good deal on the ground, hopping and running with a quick ambling motion among the dried leaves, expanding and closing its tail with a slight vertical depression, and seemed to be searching for small chrysalides, and for the dipterous insects that had taken refuge among the fallen leaves to escape the rude blast that caused the

branches overhead to sway to and fro; for such insects were found in its stomach.

✓ Our *Cypselus affinis* is more strictly Blyth's Malayan *C. subfurcatus*; and the *Querquedula multicolor* is the *Anas falcaria*, ✓ Pallas.

✓ No. 8, *Micronisus badius*, Gmelin, I have already informed you, ✓ is, according to Blyth, *Accipiter virgatus*, Temminck.

✓ No. 87, p. 358, *Munia minima*, Lath., I have received from ✓ Mr. Blyth, ticketed *Munia acuticauda*, Hodgson, Burmah; and another species was at the same time sent from Calcutta, bearing a similar form, but with blacker breast and cheeks, named *Munia striata*, Linn. Specimens in my present collection from Formosa are identical with that procured at Burmah, though a specimen from Shanghai appears to be different.

✓ *Tchitrea cæruleocephala*, Quoy et Gaim.? (No. 66 of my first ✓ paper) proves to be *Myiagra azurea*, Bodd.; and to the Flycatcher ✓ list I must add another species, *Stoparola melanops*, Vigors. Both these birds Mr. Blyth tells me are common in Bengal. Of the former two females were procured here in the autumn of 1859, and one female of the latter. We cannot therefore look upon them but as rare stragglers to this island.

✓ No. 12. *Circus*, sp.?, is closely affine to, if not identical with, *Circus uliginosus* of America. There is a specimen of this species in a cabinet at Hongkong procured from Manilla through Mr. Cuming.

✓ Of the two *Caprimulgidæ*, one affine to *C. jotaka* of Japan is ✓ described by Mr. Blyth as *C. swinhoei*; the other that gentleman ✓ tells me is a very near ally of *C. monticola* of Asia.

The rest of the doubtful species of Amoy I have sent you with one or other of my late papers.

✓ There is one other bird that I jotted down without careful comparison, and that is the *Cormorant* that winters in this harbour. ✓ I set it down in my list as *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Now I discover, on close comparison of my specimens with the bird in the 'Fauna Japonica,' that our species is undoubtedly referable to *P. filamentosus*, ✓ Schlegel, of Japan. But I see, in the 'Fauna Japonica,' *P. carbo* is also noted at Japan and at Kamtschatka, and Mr. Blyth tells me it is found in India. I have therefore every reason to suppose that it also favours this coast with its visits during winter. Can

see Chin 1862 p 92

the Editor inform us whether *P. filamentosus*, which Schlegel says "n'a été observé jusqu'à présent qu'au Japon," is the same bird as *P. sinensis*, Shaw, Nat. Misc. pl. 529 ?* If so, which name has the priority ? A young bird of this species was shot a few days ago in the harbour here, and so I have just had an excellent opportunity of comparing the bird in a fresh state with the different accounts.

P. FILAMENTOSUS, Schlegel, juv.

Bill yellowish horn-colour, with a blackish-brown culmen ; at the base of both mandibles yellow, and bright orange-yellow on the naked skin about the face. Inside of mouth yellowish flesh-colour. Iris yellow. Legs blackish brown, with a purplish tinge, and lighter claws.

Length 31 in., wing 12, tail $5\frac{1}{2}$. Bill, upper mandible $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., lower $3\frac{4}{10}$. Tarsus $2\frac{3}{10}$ in. ; 1st toe $3\frac{7}{10}$, its claw $\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{10}$; 2nd toe $2\frac{9}{10}$, its claw $\frac{1}{2}$; 3rd toe $2\frac{2}{10}$, its claw $\frac{1}{2}$; 4th toe $1\frac{1}{2}$, its claw $\frac{1}{2}$.

From the above it will be seen how much nearer the measurements of my bird agree with those of *P. filamentosus* in the 'Fauna Japonica,' than with those of *P. carbo* in Macgillivray. The most striking resemblance, however, is in the disposition of the naked skin, which Schlegel ably describes thus, "Peau nue du tour des yeux et de la région des freins descendant vers l'angle de la bouche, et se rénuissant à la poche gutturale, sur la ligne médiane de laquelle s'avancent les plumes de la gorge en couvrant un espace en forme d'un angle très-aigu et long d'environ dix lignes."

Foochow is the chief city of this province, situated in a well-watered picturesque valley more than half surrounded by woody hills, and some 30 miles from the sea. I visited the spot in June 1857, and then procured some species which I have never observed in Amoy ; and through the kind exertions of Mr. Holt of our Service, since stationed at that port, I have been enabled to add a few others to my collection. As I am of opinion that a list of these birds would prove of interest to the readers of 'The Ibis,' I will make no excuse for submitting it here :—

ACCIPITER VIRGATUS, Temm.

One shot at Amoy. Several received from Mr. Holt.

* Shaw's bird appears to be merely the Chinese variety of *P. carbo*, and not *P. capillatus* (i. e. *filamentosus*).—ED.

ATHENE CUCULOIDES, Jerdon.

Canton and Foochow. Very common during summer at the latter place.

SCOPS LEMPIJI, Horsfield.

Canton and Foochow. Mr. Blyth observes that specimens of both this and the last from China are rather larger than those of India.

DICRURUS CINERACEUS, Horsfield.

Common in the vale of Foochow, but not found on the table-land or the hills, where *D. macrocerus*, Vieill., takes its place.

CORYDALLA SINENSIS, Bp. ?

Foochow hills. This is a smaller bird than *C. richardi*, with comparatively larger bill and legs, and I think is very likely to prove to be Bonaparte's species. The distribution of colours in the two specimens I have is similar to that in the cognate Lark, which latter, by the way, varies considerably in the tone of the ochreous tinge that washes the plumage.

ENICURUS SPECIOSUS, Horsfield.

Pehling hills, Foochow. I never met but one, and that answers so completely to Horsfield's description in the 'Researches in Java,' that I have little doubt in assigning to my bird his specific name.

POMATORHINUS STRIDULUS, n. sp.

This small Wren-like species, which Mr. Blyth marks as new, is common on the Pehling hills, Foochow, where I have procured however but one individual. It possesses a long rattling note, which it utters when disturbed in its haunts, and perching close to the intruder, stoops its body to its feet, and throws up its tail at right angles, assuming at such times much the appearance of a Wren.

Upper mandible of bill brown, lower yellowish. Legs brown, with pale claws. Iris hazel. Upper parts olive-brown with a rufous tinge; the brown on the wings and tail being darker on the inner webs of the feathers. A white streak runs over the eye, and a black one under it, from the nostrils to the ear, which it covers. Beyond these two streaks a chestnut nuchal

patch occurs, which extends on either side, and meets semicircularly on the hind neck. Throat white. Breast reddish chestnut-brown, with most of the feathers broadly edged with white on their sides. Axillæ rather paler than the breast. Belly, flanks, and under tail-coverts of the same tint as the back.

Length $6\frac{8}{10}$ in., wing $2\frac{7}{10}$, tail $2\frac{8}{10}$. Bill along culmen $\frac{7}{10}$ in., from rictus $\frac{9}{10}$. Tarse 1 in.; hind-toe $\frac{8}{10}$, its claw $\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}{10}$; hind-toe $\frac{1}{2}$, its claw $\frac{3}{10}$.

HYPSIPETES HOLTII, n. sp.

This bird, which I procured from the Pehling hills near Foochow, is, as Mr. Blyth remarks, "barely separable from *H. maclellandii* of S. Himalaya, Assam, &c., but is of a duskier hue on the back, scapularies and shoulders, with less and weaker rufous on the breast." When closely compared, however, the two species present differences, in my opinion, quite justifying a separation. I have a male of both species before me. The bill of *H. maclellandii* is longer and more arched, with yellowish under-mandible. Ours has a somewhat straight blackish-brown bill. Legs and claws brown. Crown of head with pointed feathers of a deeper brown with paler streaks. Back and scapulars olive-brown with paler shafts. Gular feathers pointed, of a smoke-grey, with broad white medial streaks. Cheeks and fore neck pale rufous brown. Under parts with a rufous-brown wash. Vent yellow. Wings and tail as in *H. maclellandii*, but less xanthous. Our species is moreover larger, and has a longer tail.

SPIZIXOS SEMITORQUES, n. sp.

1863
290 A common species on the Pehling plateau, where it frequents the bushes, and appears to be substituted for the *Pycnonotus occipitalis*, Temm. (nec *P. sinensis* sive *P. jocosus*), of the plains below. Mr. Blyth considers it a typical *Spizixos*, and alludes to a figure resembling it of a bird brought from Assam. He says it differs from his *Sp. canifrons* "by its black forehead, want of crest, greater extent of black on throat, &c.; but, except the head and neck, that there is hardly any difference."

Length $7\frac{3}{4}$ in., wing $3\frac{7}{10}$, tail $3\frac{7}{10}$. Bill $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Tarse $\frac{7}{10}$ in.

Bill pale yellow. Legs and claws pale liver-brown. Iris brown. Head black, yielding to smoke-grey on the occiput and

hind neck. A white patch occurs on each side of the forehead and at the base of the lower mandible. The cheeks are streaked with the same, which accumulates to a patch on each side of the nape, and advancing on the fore neck with a mixture of smoke-grey, forms a half-collar. Upper parts, breast and flanks olive-green. Inner webs and shafts of rectrices deep rich brown, rest of wing yellow olive-green. Tail also olive-green, with brown shafts and edges to inner webs, and a black band at its end. Edge of wing bright greenish yellow, as are also the remaining under parts.

GARRULUS ORNATUS, G. R. Gray.

Common at Foochow and Ningpo.

UROCISSA SINENSIS, Gould.

Canton and Foochow.

CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS, Linn.

Foochow.

POLOPHILUS SINENSIS, Steph.

Canton and Foochow.

PICUS CABANISI.

Identified by Mr. Blyth. Also procured at Canton.

BRACHYPTERNUS BADIUS, Raffles.

Rather larger than Malacca specimens. I procured this myself. It attracted my attention by its laughing note as it ran up the trunk of a tree. I have never seen but one from Foochow.

GEVINUS ——— ?

Smaller than *G. viridis* of Europe, but a good deal resembling it, except that the capital decoration of the male is confined to the forehead. I have unfortunately sent home the only male and two young ones that I procured from Foochow; I can therefore give no further note of the bird.

GALLICREX CRISTATUS, Lath.

Also procured at Canton.

RHYNCHOPS SINENSIS, Linn.

At Canton also.

Just as I am closing this letter my hunters arrive with a fine

specimen of *Colymbus*, but I find I cannot reconcile it with my description of *C. glacialis*. Here is a note of the bird they have shot in Amoy harbour :—

Length 25 in., wing $11\frac{4}{10}$. Bill along ridge $1\frac{2}{10}$, along edge of lower mandible $3\frac{2}{10}$. Tarse 3 in.; 1st toe $2\frac{7}{10}$ in., 2nd $2\frac{9}{10}$, 3rd $2\frac{1}{2}$, 4th $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tarsus on the inward surface, surface of the toes, and median line of webs pale bluish grey variegated with purplish black, which forms the pervading colour of the outward side of the tarse and the under surface of the feet. Bill flesh-colour with blackish-brown culmen. The upper head and neck are grey; and the back and scapulars spotted with white on a greenish-black ground. All the under parts are *pure* white. Now Schlegel, I find, puts down the *Colymbus* that winters at Japan as the *C. arcticus*; but this assuredly does not answer that species. Is our bird the *C. adamsii**, not long since described by G. R. Gray? or is it a species with which the Editor of 'The Ibis' is not acquainted?

Yours, &c.,

ROBERT SWINHOE.

British Consulate, Amoy, February 20th, 1861.

XXVI.—*Note on the Calcutta 'Adjutant' (Leptoptilus argala).*

By EDWARD BLYTH, Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, Calcutta.

IN 'Chambers's Journal' for January of the current year, p. 40, I observe an article entitled "The Calcutta Adjutant, or *Hurghila* of the natives of Bengal," of which term its technical specific appellation is of course a corruption. It contains a deal of nonsense, which I forthwith proceed to criticise and correct.

We are told, in the fourth paragraph, that these gaunt birds "have a long, straight, broad bill, *much depressed, the upper mandible flattened, and terminated by a very strong hook* [!]; the lower formed by two bony branches, *which are flexible*, and united at the tip; *from these branches are suspended a naked skin*, in

* *C. adamsii* is the Pacific form of *C. glacialis*, and generally resembles the latter, except in its larger yellowish-white bill. See Mr. Gray's description (P. Z. S. 1859, p. 167). It is probable that Mr. Swinhoe's bird may be *C. adamsii* in immature plumage.—ED.